

Summer 2025 Undergraduate Research Internship

Project Name

The role of social context in racial disparities in preventable hospital stays/cancer incidence

Faculty Mentor

Dr. Samuel Baxter (Health Policy and Management)

Project Description

This research project will investigate associations between social context indicators and racial disparities in cancer incidence and preventable hospital stays at the county level across several states (United States).

Both cancer incidence and preventable hospital stays are critical issues for healthcare and population health. High cancer rates strain healthcare systems with increased demand for treatment and management, while preventable hospital stays highlight gaps in primary care and early intervention. Addressing these issues can lead to better health outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, and improved quality of life for communities. Social context plays a crucial role in influencing cancer incidence and preventable hospital stays, as factors like community-level socioeconomic status, racial composition, and vulnerability can significantly impact health outcomes. Addressing these social determinants is essential for reducing disparities and improving overall population health.

Scope of Work for Internship

The Undergrad intern will work on preparing data sets to be linked by FIPS Codes, descriptive analysis, and preliminary results formalization. Light literature review will be needed as well.

Expected Deliverables

- Conduct light literature review
- Merge data across sources (using FIPS Codes)
- Descriptive and preliminary analysis

Preferred Skills

Statistical program interest or experience, written and oral communication skills, and aptitude to think both critically and creatively.